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Portland, OR 97233

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

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EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

Spending over a billion dollars to clean the Willamette River, to me, is a waste of money when nature is taking care of the contaminants. What is there to gain by stirring up the chemicals at the bottom of the river? It's best not to bother that stuff. This money is better spent by doing constitutionally mandated things, which is just about anything other than causing traffic congestion and higher taxes in Portland.

Saying "no" to a bad idea is infinitely better than opting to spend money on something that is not a major issue. The way I see it, funding other normal activities such as projects the Army Corp of Engineers does on a relatively frequent basis would better help our communities. There are much more pressing ways to improve the community outside of stirring up and relocating the riverbed.

I'm assuming my taxes will go up if the EPA goes through with this project. Residents are always expected to pay for things that cost more than the benefits we receive. It's a waste. This plan will hit the economy pretty seriously, costing jobs in our local economy. That could even impact where I live in East County. Hitting the tax base will have a ripple effect for all of us.

If the explanation for the need to dredge the river were based on timely scientific data, then it would be valid. However, I question the EPA's science, especially since the information it is using is over 10-years-old. Furthermore, imposing cleanup requirements on Portland that are worse than in other areas is unfair. Please do not continue with this proposal. When it comes down to it, the plan is incompetent. Instead, favor a plan with input from local residents and leaders that will benefit the entire Portland community.

Sincerely,

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